

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - producing a sand mold;
 - injecting at least one of molten aluminum ~~or~~ and molten aluminum alloy into the sand mold;
 - cooling a casting thus obtained together with the sand mold by ~~means of~~ at least one of water ~~or~~ and a liquid coolant; and
 - dismantling the sand mold.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 1, wherein the cooling ~~step~~ comprises dipping the sand mold together with the casting in the at least one of water ~~or~~ and the liquid coolant.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - producing a unit sand mold within a mold making chamber on a casting line, the unit sand mold having cavities on a front face and a rear face ~~faces~~ thereof in a direction of the casting line;
 - connecting a plurality of unit sand molds thus produced on the casting line by joining the front face of one unit sand mold to the rear face of the preceding unit sand mold to form a train of connected unit sand molds, and injecting at least one of molten aluminum ~~or~~ and molten aluminum alloy into the cavity through an injection port provided at a boundary between the joined faces;
 - cutting the train of connected sand molds at a substantially central portion of each unit sand mold or of every nth sand molds (n is an integer of two or more), and dipping ~~the~~ each unit sand ~~mold mold(s)~~ into at least one of water ~~or~~ and a liquid coolant; and
 - dismantling ~~the~~ each sand mold.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according

to claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ drying sand obtained by dismantling the sand mold and supplying ~~this~~ the sand to the casting chamber for reuse.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 2, further comprising ~~the step of~~ drying sand obtained by dismantling the sand mold and supplying ~~this~~ the sand to the casting chamber for reuse.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 3, further comprising ~~the step of~~ drying sand obtained by dismantling ~~the~~ each unit sand mold and supplying ~~this~~ the sand to the casting chamber for reuse.

7. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 1, wherein a temperature of the casting prior to the cooling is immediately above a solidus temperature of the casting.

8. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 3, wherein a temperature of the casting prior to the cooling is immediately above a solidus temperature of the casting.

9. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 1, wherein the sand mold is dismantled by vibrating the sand mold.

10. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 9, wherein the sand mold is vibrated by a vibrating feeder belt.

11. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 3, wherein each sand mold is dismantled by vibrating the sand mold.

12. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 1, wherein said cooling a casting comprises simultaneously cooling a casting thus obtained together with the sand mold by at least one of water and a liquid coolant.

Serial No. 10/689,401
Docket No. 03FI001US

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13. (New) The method of casting aluminum or aluminum alloy according to claim 1, wherein the cooling comprises spray cooling the sand mold together with the casting with the at least one of water and a liquid coolant.